

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 05687 230744Z

14-11
ACTION SS-25

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O 230703Z AUG 75 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO USDEL ALEXANDRIA NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5432
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T AMMAN 5687

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JO, SY, US
SUBJECT: UPI STORY ON SYRIAN-JORDANIAN COMMUNIQUE

1. LATE EVENING AUGUST 22 (LOCAL) PRIME MINISTER RIFAI ATTEMPTED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ME. WE MADE CONTACT EARLY MORNING AUGUST 23. RIFAI EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD HEARD FROM SOURCES IN WASHINGTON THAT A UPI STORY FROM DAMASCUS WAS GREATLY MISREPRESENTING SYRIAN-JORDANIAN COMMUNIQUE.

2. IN PARTICULAR, UPI STORY (WHICH WE HAVE NOT SEEN HERE), ACCORDING TO RIFAI, INDICATED THAT SYRIA AND JORDAN WERE OPPOSED TO YOUR PRESENCE IN THE AREA AND TO YOUR EFFORTS TO BRING THE AREA CLOSER TO PEACE. RIFAI SAID HE WANTED YOU TO KNOW RIGHT AWAY THIS IS ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE AND A COMPLETE FABRICATION. NO SUCH STATEMENT WAS EVER MADE AND NO SUCH OBJECTIVE WAS EVER INTENDED. (DAMASCUS 3256 AND FBIS JN 221157Y WHICH CARRIES FULL TEXT OF STATEMENT APPEAR TO CONFIRM THIS.)

3. RIFAI AND I HAVE ARRANGED TO GET TOGETHER TO DISCUSS COMMUNIQUE IN DETAIL. HIS PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON ITS IMPORTANCE
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BEAR OUT STATEMENTS IN DAMASCUS 3256 THAT THIS IS A SPLENDID

PIECE OF ARAB RHETORIC. RIFAI SAID THAT COMMUNIQUE CARRIES
ISSUES NO FARTHER THAN THEY HAVE BEEN CARRIED BY STATEMENT
ISSUED AT THE END OF ASAD'S VISIT EARLIER THIS YEAR. THERE IS
CERTAINLY NO CREATION OF A JOINT MILITARY COMMAND, CONTRARY
TO WHAT UPI HAS APPARENTLY ALSO REPORTED FROM WIRELESS FILE,
AND RIFAI ASSURES US THE EFFORT WAS CAREFULLY DRAWN TO TRY TO
AVOID STORIES LIKE THAT PRODUCED BY UPI.

4. FURTHER EMBASSY SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT ON COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWS
SEPTTEL. PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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